

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 SIL-01 LAB-06 EB-11 COME-00 RSR-01 /140 W
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R 091409 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3360

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PGOV SF WA

SUBJ: NAMIBIA: PRIME MINISTER DISCUSSES ADVISORY COUNCIL

REF: A) CAPE TOWN 174 B) CAPE TOWN 181

1. SAG HAS ANNOUNCED THAT COMMISSIONER GENERAL OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA, JANNIE DE WET, WILL FORWARD TODAY, MARCH 9, NAMES OF AFRICANS NOMINATED, AND WILLING, TO SERVE ON PM VORSTER'S ADVISORY COUNCIL. AFRICAN REPRESENTATIVES SELECTED TO DATE REPRESENT EACH OF NORTHERN HOMELANDS WITH EXCEPTION OF HEREROLAND, AS HEREROS HAVE REFUSED TO SERVE ON COUNCIL (REF A).

2. IN INTERVIEW WITH CAPE TIMES JOURNALIST MARCH 8, PRIME MINISTER DISMISSED REFUSAL OF NATIONAL CONVENTION TO PARTICIPATE IN ADVISORY COUNCIL, STATING THAT CONVENTION HAD " NO STATUS OR MEMBERSHIP." HE ADDED THAT CHIEF CLEMENS KAPUUO OF HEREROS HAD

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NO RIGHT TO CLAIM CHIEFTANSHIP.

3. VORSTER CONFIRMED REPORTS HE WOULD PRESIDE OVER ADVISORY COUNCIL'S FIRST MEETING, WHICH SCHEDULED TAKE PLACE IN WINDHOEK MARCH 23.

4. HE SAID PEOPLES RPT PEOPLES OF SWA HAVE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION BUT FIRST MUST HAVE EXPERIENCE IN SELF- GOVERNMENT. SAG WAS GIVING THEM THIS EXPERIENCE IN HOMELANDS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES. HE SAID: " THE NEXT STEP, THEN, IS ENTIRELY UP TO THEM. IT IS FOR THEM TO DECIDE THEIR FATE." NEITHER SA NOR UN COULD DECIDE FOR THEM.

5. HE WAS ASKED ABOUT STATEMENT BY UN SYG WALDHEIM THAT BEFORE SENDING ANYBODY BACK TO SA HE FIRST WANTED ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATION FROM SA ON ITS POLICIES TOWARD SWA. VORSTER REPLIED THAT HE COULD NOT DISCUSS THIS BECAUSE " DELICATE NEGOTIATIONS" WERE INVOLVED. EARLIER IN INTERVIEW HE SAID HE WOULD DO " EVERYTHING THAT IS NECESSARY" TO CONTINUE CONTACT WITH UN ON FUTURE OF SWA.

6. COMMENT: HEREROS' REFUSAL SIT ON ADVISORY COUNCIL CERTAIN TO DETRACT FROM ITS GLOSS. FURTHERMORE, VORSTER'S REJECTION OF IMPORTANCE OF NATIONAL CONVENTION APPEARS BE UNREALISTIC AND SHORT- SIGHTED. LACKING EVEN TACIT APPROVAL OF CONVENTION, VORSTER RUNNING DEFINITE RISK OF HAVING ADVISORY COUNCIL LABELED AS ANOTHER PUPPET ORGANIZATION OF SAG.
HURD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: worrelsw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973CAPET00186
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730323/aaaahhwz.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 CAPE TOWN 174, 73 CAPE TOWN 181
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: worrelsw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20-Jul-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <21-Aug-2001 by worrelsw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971113
Subject: NAMIBIA: PRIME MINISTER DISCUSSES ADVISORY COUNCIL
TAGS: PGOV, SF, WA
To: AF
DURBAN
GABORONE
JOHANNESBURG
LONDON
MASERU
PRETORIA

SECSTATE WASHDC
USUN NEW YORK

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005